Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- (Currently Amended) Device (10) for maintaining the position of a rotatably or
 displaceably mounted shaft (11) having a surface (44), particularly an armature shaft (11)
 of an electric meter (9), wherein a gripping body (26) is arranged around the shaft (11),
 and said gripping body is impinged upon by a force (54, 56) in order to form a friction
 closure between the gripping body (26) and the surface (44) of the shaft (11),
 characterized in that the force (54, 56) for maintaining the position is provided by an
 actively actuated control member (30, 62, 70, 80) that is connected at least to one end
 (38, 40, 74) of the gripping body (26).
- (Original) Device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that the gripping body (26) is embodied as a wrap-around band (72) or helical spring (48) with at least two ends (38, 40, 74).
- (Previously Presented) Device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that at least
 one of the gripping body (26) and/or the surface (44) of the shaft (11) features a material
 (78) with an increased coefficient of adhesive friction, in particular a rubber-like casing
 (76).
- (Previously Presented) Device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that the gripping body (26) is embodied as a double wrap-around band (72) with two free ends (38, 40) and a loop (74) as a third end (74).
- (Original) Device (10) according to Claim 4, characterized in that the two free ends (38, 40) are arranged axially within the loop (74) of the third end (74).

- (Previously Presented) Device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that the gripping body (26) is fabricated of round wire (50) or a flat band (64).
- (Previously Presented) Device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that the
 control member (30, 62, 70, 80) is actuated by a disengaging system (32), which has an
 electric or pneumatic or hydraulic drive (81) with a lifting magnet (34) or a chemical or
 shape-memory actuator (68).
- (Currently Amended) Device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that the disengaging system (32) has a double lift with two control members (30, 62, 70, 80), which simultaneously and symmetrically deflect at least two ends (38, 40, 74) of the gripping body (26).
- (Previously Presented) Device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that at least one control member (30) is embodied as a wedge (62) or an eccentric wheel (70), which deflects at least one end (38, 40, 74) of the gripping body (26).
- (Currently Amended) Device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that at least one
 control member (30, 62, 70, 80) executes a <u>linear movement or a rotational movement</u>
 rotation on the shaft (11) to deflect at least one end (38, 40, 74).
- (Previously Presented) Device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that the
 friction closure is caused by pulling tight the gripping body (26) by means of the effect of
 a tensile force (56) or a compressive force (54) on the ends (38, 40, 74).
- (Previously Presented) Device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that at least one end (38, 40, 74) of the gripping body (26) is fastened on a housing part (18, 20, 22, 24) of the shaft bearing (16).

- 13. (Previously Presented) Device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that the disengaging system (32) features a restoring element (46), which is arranged in such a way that when the disengaging system (32) is activated a friction closure between the surface (44) and the gripping body (26) is prevented.
- 14. (Previously Presented) Device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that the restoring element is arranged in such a way that when the disengaging system (32) is activated a friction closure between the surface (44) and the gripping body (26) is produced.
- (Currently Amended) Device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that two
 disengaging systems (32), including two electric lifting magnets (34); are arranged next
 to each other axial to the shaft (11), or in a radial plane.
- 16. (Previously Presented) Device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that the at least two ends (38, 40, 74) are impinged upon in such a way by the force (54, 56) in order to form the friction closure, that a resulting radial force (58) is generated, which twists the shaft (11) against a bearing point (16) of the shaft (11), whereby the shaft (11) is prevented from rotating by means of an additional holding moment.
- (Previously Presented) Device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that the gripping body (26) is surrounded radially at least partially by at least one additional gripping body (27).
- 18. (Previously Presented) Device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that the gripping bodies (26, 27) have opposite winding directions and at least one end (86, 88) beginning the winding is connected to at least one end (87, 89) ending the winding by means of the control member (30) and the disengaging system (32).

- (Currently Amended) Device (10) according to Claim 2, characterized in that at least one
 of the gripping body (26) and the surface (44) of the shaft (11) features a material (78)
 with an increased coefficient of adhesive friction; in particular a rubber-like easing (76).
- (Previously Presented) Device (10) according to Claim 19, characterized in that the gripping body (26) is embodied as a double wrap-around band (72) with two free ends (38, 40) and a loop (74) as a third end (74).